

Please enter the following claims:

1. (currently amended) A memory device configured to perform multi-bank operations comprising a plurality of memory banks including at least a first and second memory bank respectively controlled by a first and a second redundancy replacement means; and, said memory device comprising:

a redundancy allocation means for allocating redundancy elements by way of performing a comparison of data bits read out from said first memory bank against corresponding expected data, said data bit comparison occurring only when said first bank is addressed during a multi-bank operation, said comparison being performed by a dynamic exclusive OR circuit comprising:

a first transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to said data to a first node and to a second node,

a second transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to the complement of said expected data, to a first voltage source, and to said first node,

a third transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to the complement of said data, to a third node, and to said second node, and

a fourth transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to said expected data, to said first voltage source, and to said third node, such that said second node follows said first voltage source only if no match of said data to said expected data occurs

2. (original) The memory device recited in claim 1, further comprising second means for comparing the data bits read out of said second memory bank against corresponding expected data, said comparison occurring only when said second bank is addressed during a multi-bank operation.

3. (previously amended) The memory device recited in claim 2, wherein a period of said comparison is longer than the bank-to-bank access cycle time of said multi-bank operation.

4. (currently amended) The memory device recited in claim 2, wherein ~~said~~ a selection means selects either the first or the second bank to perform said comparison, and wherein said comparison is enabled only when the selected bank is addressed.

5. (original) The method device as recited in claim 1 wherein said expected data is provided when prompted by a read command, said read command being delayed by a predetermined read latency.

Please cancel Claim 6.

7. (currently amended) The memory device as recited in claim 1 ~~6~~, wherein said expected data and the complement thereof remain at low until said comparison means is enabled, and either of said expected data and complement thereof switches to high when said comparison means are enabled.

8. (currently amended) The memory device as recited in claim 1 ~~6~~, wherein said expected data and the complement of said expected data are generated by a single expected data and an enabling signal.

9. (currently amended) The memory device as recited in claim 1 ~~6~~ further comprising a fifth transistor having a gate, source and drain respectively coupled to a line carrying a first signal to said second voltage source, and to said second node, wherein said second node is precharged to said second voltage prior to performing said data comparison by controlling said first signal.

10. (original) The memory device as recited in claim 9, wherein the detection result of said second node is held until said first signal precharges said second node.

11. (original) The memory device as recited in claim 10, further comprising:

at least one second circuit to enable a data comparison for a different data bit, and

means for OR'ing all said data comparison circuits, wherein a fail is identified by one of said data comparison circuits.

12. (previously amended) The memory device as recited in claim 1, wherein a time required for allocating a redundancy during a multi-bank operation exceeds the bank-to-bank clock cycle.

13. (previously amended) The memory device as recited in claim 1, wherein a time required for allocating a redundancy to a predetermined domain during a multi-bank operation extends over one random access cycle.

14. (original) The memory device as recited in claim 1 further comprising means for fetching address bits only when comparing means compares data bits read out from said memory bank against corresponding expected data.

Please cancel claims 15-17

18. (currently amended) A method for allocating a redundancy in a memory device configured for a multi-bank operation, comprising the steps of:

sub-dividing said memory device into a plurality of memory banks, wherein at least two banks are supported by different redundancy replacement means;

enabling said at least two banks in a multi-bank mode;

identifying said redundancy domain during the multi-bank mode and accepting expected data; and

enabling a data comparison of data bits read from one of said banks and matching said data bits to corresponding expected data only when said bank is identified and addressed during said multi-bank operation, wherein

enabling said data comparison is performed by a dynamic exclusive-OR circuit, said dynamic exclusive-OR circuit comprising:

a first transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to data, to a first node, and to a second node;

a second transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to the complement of said expected data, to a first voltage source, and to said first node;

a third transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to the complement of said data, to a third node, and to said second node; and

a fourth transistor having a gate, source, and drain respectively coupled to said expected data, to said first voltage source, and to said third node, such that said second node follows said first voltage source only if no match of said data to said expected data occurs.

Please cancel claim 19.

20. (currently amended) The method recited in claim 18 ~~19~~ further comprising a fifth transistor having a gate, source and drain respectively coupled to a line carrying a first signal, to said second voltage source, and to said second node, wherein said second node is precharged to said second voltage prior to performing said data comparison by controlling said first signal.

21. (currently amended) The method recited in claim 18 ~~19~~, further comprising the step of maintaining the detection result of said second node from the initial time when said data comparison is enabled to a time when said first signal precharges said second node.

22. (previously amended) The method recited in claim 18, wherein a time required for the allocation of a redundancy during a multi-bank operation exceeds a bank-to-bank clock cycle.

23. (previously amended) The method recited in claim 18, wherein a time required for the allocation of a redundancy during a multi-bank operation extends over one random access cycle to allocate the redundancy for a predetermined domain.

24. (original) The method recited in claim 18, further comprising the step of fetching address bits only when the redundancy allocation enables or disables a pass or a fail bit detection to fetch the address bits only when the bank is identified and addressed during the multi-bank operation.